

Message Text

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E:WJCASEY

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EUR/RPE:JRTARRANT

S/S - MR. BARNES

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UK, CH

SUBJECT: UK AIRCRAFT ENGINES AND TECHNOLOGY TO CHINA

REF: COCOM DOC(73)1295; USNATO 3577

IN LOW-KEY MANNER, USDEL SHOULD OPPOSE UK EXPORT SPEY 512
AND 202 JET AIRCRAFT ENGINES AND MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY
TO PRC NOTING FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. TECHNICAL. THE SPEY 202 IS A MILITARY ENGINE IN
CURRENT USE BY NATO COUNTRIES AND OTHER MILITARY FORCES.
THE SPEY 202 IS COMPARABLE TO THE J-79 USED IN F-4

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SERIES AND F-104 AIRCRAFT AND IS THE POWER PLANT FOR THE

RAF VERSION OF THE F-4. IT IS ALSO SIMILAR TO THE JOINT ROLLS ROYCE-ALLISON TF-41 ENGINE USED IN THE US A-7 WHICH HAS THE SPEY ENGINE AS ITS BASIC DESIGN.

2. IMPACT ON COCOM. (A) THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION IN THE US VIEW IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE AND SPIRIT OF COCOM. (B) THE IMPLIED CRITERION IN POINT 4 OF THE UK SUBMISSION TO COCOM IS THAT TRANSACTIONS ARE PERMISSIBLE THAT WOULD QUOTE NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ESSENTIAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE MEMBERS OF COCOM AND THEIR ALLIES UNQUOTE. THIS PLACES THE BURDEN OF PROOF ON THOSE ARGUING THE CASE FOR DENIAL OF A COCOM ITEM RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND. ADOPTION OF THIS

CRITERION WOULD NULLIFY THE EXISTING CRITERIA AND EXCEPTIONS PROCEDURES. (C) IN SUPPLEMENTAL EXPLANATION THAT HMG HAS PROVIDED US AND, WE UNDERSTAND, OTHER COCOM MEMBERS IT IS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE ACQUISITION OF THE SPEY ENGINE WOULD QUOTE BE FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE TOWARDS CHINA WHICH THEY NOW BELIEVE TO BE APPROPRIATE UNQUOTE. THE POSITION THAT THE TECHNOLOGY INVOLVED IS NOT SO ADVANCED AS TO QUOTE ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ESSENTIAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY INTERESTS ETC. UNQUOTE COULD HOWEVER, BE EQUALLY WELL APPLIED TO SPEY ENGINE SALES TO THE USSR OR ANY OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRY. (D) WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT COCOM SHOULD, IN EFFECT, ENCOURAGE THE SALE OF MILITARY END ITEMS AND THE TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCING THEM TO ANY OF THE COMMUNIST POWERS.

3. POLITICAL. CERTAIN NATO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE US, HAVE ALLIES AND DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS IN THE FAR EAST. THE SALE OF SOPHISTICATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TO ANY COMMUNIST POWER IN ASIA IS INCONSISTENT WITH THOSE DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS.

4. CONCLUSION. FOR THESE REASONS WE CONSIDER THAT ACQUIESCENCE IN THE UK PROPOSAL WOULD BE UNWISE AND UNDESIRABLE. US THEREFORE OPPOSES THIS PROPOSED EXCEPTION.

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US COCOM DEL AND USNATO MISSION MAY RELAY ABOVE POSITION TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT US ATTITUDE. NO ELABORATION SHOULD BE OFFERED. DEPT INFORMING UK EMBASSY IN ROUTINE MANNER. ROGERS

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